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The Associated Students of the University of Montana
Resolution Opposing HB 302
February 8, 2019
SB 27-18/19

Authored by: Abbigail Belcher, ASUM Senator; Brenna Mae Davis, ASUM Senator;
Sponsored by: Melissa Glueckert, ASUM Senator;

Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) represent the interests of over 10,000 students, all of whom are at risk to be impacted by a pregnancy;

Whereas, Some impacts of a pregnancy can derail both parents' life, hinder their ability to complete their education, increase the risk of poverty, and have lasting effects on a person's health;

Whereas, Access to contraceptive and access to abortion are equally important aspects of reproductive healthcare;

Whereas, According to the National College Health Assessment (NCHA) of 2018, 46.7% of females use birth control pills, 25.8% use an intrauterine device (IUD), and 11% of students reported that they or their partner used emergency contraception in the last 12 months;

Whereas, According to the 2018 NCHA the use of birth control pills has been steadily decreasing while the use of IUDs has been significantly increasing;

Whereas, According to the 2018 NCHA the use of IUDs has increased by 442% since 2012 on the University of Montana (UM) campus;

Whereas, HB 302 aims to amend the Montana Constitution to read:

"...the word "person" applies to all members of mankind at any stage of development, beginning at the stage of fertilization or conception, regardless of age, health, level of functioning, or condition of dependency.";

Whereas, Merriam Webster defines "fertilization" as:

"The action or process of fertilizing an egg or a female animal or plant, involving the fusion of male and female gametes to form a zygote.";

Whereas, Merriam Webster defines "conception" as:

"The action of conceiving a child or of one being conceived.";

Whereas, As a result of the conflicting definitions of "fertilization" and "conception", the vague language presented in HB 302 does not indicate a clear time frame in which the prevention or ending of a pregnancy would be illegal;

Whereas, If adopted in the Montana Constitution, HB 302 could have disastrous results for college students, including but not limited to a lack of access to abortion services, birth control pills, IUDs, and Plan B pills;